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CENTRAL INTILLIGENCE

REPORT NO

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

DATE OF

COUNTRY Foreign Radios

SUBJECT FOREIGN RADIO REACTIONS TO U.S. MILITARY

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HOW PUBLISHED Momittored Radio Broadcasts

WHERE **PUBLISHED** 

NO. OF PAGES

INFORMATION 1 lay - 15 June 1949

DATE DIST. - 22 June 1949

DATE

PUBLISHED 1 May - 15 June 1949

LANGUAGE Several

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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A survey of available monitored foreign broadcasts during the period 1 May to 15 June 1949: reveals a startling lack of interest in the U.S. Military Assistance Program, particularly on the part of Western European transmitters. And even the Soviet radio offers lit le specific comment on the program. Satellite broadcasts, including East German, reflect the Soviet comtention that the rearrament of Western Europe will impose an intelerable and unn cesser / turden : on the people of these countries, that the Americans are hoping to consolidate by military means their political and economic domination of Western Europe, and that the military aid program is intended primarily as a weapon against "democratic" forces inside the partic witing countries Monitored broadcasts from Latin American and Far Eastern transmitters have include no comment. whatsoever on the Military Assistance Program.

Western European Reactions: During the above-indicated period, less than a comen references to the Military Assistance Program are found in monitored broadcasts from West European radios. None of the Western European press reviews\* monitored during this period is devo es exclusively to the subject of the Military Assistance Program. In fact, the French Communist paper L'HUMANITE appears to be the only publication reported to have taken note of the publication of the pertinent State Department pumphlet, "Building the Peace." L'HUMANITE observed on 16 May that the French reaction to this publication would be "bitter and irritated," particularly by the implication that the main sacrifices would have to be borne by the West Exrepeans.

Few broadcast references have been made to the extent and character of the commitment under the North Atlantic Fact for mutual aid. The most pertinent comment comes from the observative French L'EFOQUE which on 10 May is reported to have expressed the opinion that the cost of equipping a modern army was so great that France was incapable of rearming, evem on a limited scale, without considerable help from the United States. "The main and least challengeable reason for our signing the Atlantic Pact is the expectancy of a peacetime lend-lease for this purpose, " observed L'EPOQUE.

Criticism of the Military Assistance Program from Western European sources is almost as scanty : as expressions of approval. The Dutch liberal ALGRMEN HANDELSBLAD is said to have opposed the suggestion that military aid to the Natherlands be comingent upon solution of the Indonesian

CLASSIFICATION STRICTED STATE X NAVY NSRB DISTRIBUTION ARMY

<sup>\*</sup> The type of radio program on which most expressions of West European opinion and comment ere aired. DECTRICTEN

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question, and to have been critical of the role with the the Datch New in the Western Union ; defense setup. The Swedish Social Bencaratic MUHARTILBINGEN reportedly scoffed at augustion ; that Sweden is endangered by her neutrality policy; "if global strategy makes it to the interest; of America to defend Sweden, we can then you'd on help whether or not we are in the Atlantic ; Pact."

No references are made in broadcast neverial to the possible effect of the Military Assistance. Program upon ERP allocations, nor to Congressional reaction to the program.

b. Soviet Reactions: During the period under review the Soviet radio has maintimed a consistent and heavy propaganda attack against all manifestations of the Western determination to establish a united front against aggression. The North Atlantic Pact, the Marshall Plan, the Council of Europe, the Military Assistance Program, Western Union—all are repeatedly described as evidence of the American aspiration to gain complete political, economic, and military domination over the countries of Western Europe. Utterances of American officials, such as that of Representative Cannon, are quickly seized upon as evidence that the United States, through military lend-lease, intends that Western Europe shall provide all the cannon folder for a future war. Moscow expresses an doubt that the Filitary Assistance Program will be approved. On the contrary, the Soviet radio gives the impression that the program is in full swing, with American military experts dictating to the Chiefs of Staff of the West European countries, and with shipments of arms already under way.

The heavy Soviet propaganda assault on alleged American aggressive intentions, he ever, is general in nature, bolstering the overall Soviet propaganda attempt to convince listeners that a majority of the people of the world are firstly aligned with the USSR in its consistent atruggle for peace against a "handful" of reactionaries who seek war. Moscow provides only two specific critiques of the proposals outlined in the State Department publication, "Pailding the Peace."

In the first of these, broadcast in Italian on 18 May, or. Lemin charges that the complete statement that the Western European countries will understedly be willing to make swerifices to further the program really means that therefore military aid must be used merely as built for further expenditure on military equipment on the part of the European states. It other words, he continues, the Military Assistance Program is "the signal for a new offensive textinat the living standard of the peoples of Europe."

In a later transmission (TASS, in Russian Helischreiber to Europe, 28 May), Mosser offered : RED STAR's "smalysis" of the "Building the Peace" pamphlet. The RED STAR analysis was concerned only with three sentences taken from the pamphlet. The quotations from the State Department pamphlet and RED STAR's comments upon them follows:

- 1. State Department: "The proposal that we furnish military aid now to the intimus of Western Europe derives from the U.S. policy of responsible leadership among the states." RED STAR: "Thus it is officially confirmed that the ruling circles of the United States are not ambious to help the reconstruction of postwar Europe, but to establish their domination in the countries of Western Europe."
- 2. State Department: "They (the Hear European nations) need to have in their own hands the equipment and materials which will represent a clear start toward indivitual and collective military strength, adequate to control internal disorders...." RO STAR: "Hence, the armaments race and military aid are in the first place meant to impress by force the popular novements of dispatisfaction and protest in the countries of Western Europe and to back the policy of the warmangers."
- (3) State Department: "The executive branch proposal envisions that the President will delegate to the Secretary of State by Frecutive order the broad responsibility and authority to administer the military aid program." RED STAR: "The planned regarizational fusion of the administration of military aid to foreign countries with the similar tration of the State Department discloses very much. In the first place it discloses the course of foreign policy taken by the ruling circles in the United States."
- 5. Satellite Reactions: Satellite comment in confined to general criticism of testern : aggression, slong Soviet lines. Several broadcasts by the Soviet-controlled Berlin radio refer to American intentions to make Western Germany an avacual of the Atlantic bloc. 1::4 May.

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Berlin charged that the U.S. Government had informed the British and French that lamma industry in the Rhine-Ruhr area was to produce armounts for the Atlantic Pact states, and said that the argument was advanced that this would reduce the military expenditures of the Wes: European countries. More recently, Berlin cited the official Seviet Army organ TAECLICHE (UNISCEAU or charging that alleged Western recalcitrance at the Foreign Ministers Conference was due to the fact that an agreement on Germany might prevent Congressional approval of the Military Assistance Program.